

EVALUATION OF DIFFERENT CYTOKININS FOR *IN VITRO* MULTIPLICATION OF BANANA VAR. *ROBUSTA*

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ABSTRACT

Tissue culture technique in multiplication of banana is very efficient and widely applied. The technology will give high-quality, genetically similar plants, free of diseases and nematodes. Much of the planting material used in commercial plantations, especially smallholder production, comes from mass micropropagation. The method of shoot tip culture has been most widely used in banana. However, use of a typical tissue culture protocol is applicable as the technology is highly dependent on genotypes and a number of local variables. In the present study, banana cultivar Robusta was subjected to different cytokinins amended in MS Basal medium. Cytokinins showed differential effects in the micropropagation of Robusta cultivar. Among the different cytokinins tested, BAP was found to be the best cytokinin at an optimum concentration 5mg/L.

KEYWORDS: Banana Cultivar Robusta, *in Vitro* Multiplication, Cytokinins, BAP